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Letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the telegram sent by Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be issued as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under agenda items 13 and 14.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

I should like to take this opportunity to confirm the Russian Federation's consistent and firm support for the friendly Palestinian people and its legitimate aspirations, including the right to the creation of an independent Palestinian State coexisting with Israel in peace and security. We shall continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian National Authority in establishing its statehood, strengthening power structures and solving socio-economic problems.

I am convinced that an Israeli-Palestinian settlement is the key to a durable stabilization of the situation in the Middle East. In this regard, I fully support your efforts to reach an interpalestinian consensus in the light of the demands of the international community for the resumption of direct talks with Israel on an internationally acknowledged basis.

The Russian Federation will continue to work for a comprehensive settlement in the region, taking into account the legitimate rights and interests of all peoples living there.

Allow me to wish you, dear Mr. Abbas, health and happiness and to the Palestinian people a peaceful future, well-being and prosperity.

Vladimir Putin
Moscow
29 November 2006

His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
Chairman of the Palestinian National Authority
Ramallah